

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-28 (cancelled).

Claim 29 (Currently amended): A system wherein a user requester places an order for at least one provider and a degree of matching between each order-provider pairing is computed, the system comprising:

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a data storage device to receive and store user information from at least one user, the user information including ~~requester information that specifies requester criteria~~, provider information that specifies provider criteria[[,]] and order information that specifies order criteria ~~provided by the requester~~ for that particular order;

at least one [[a]] virtual provider that is created by pairing provider information of a particular provider with order information of a particular order to create an informational pair;

a knowledge base which is stored in a data storage device which may be said data storage device, which is separate from the user information and separate from program code, and which contains information on which to base requests for information by the system to obtain the user information; and

an iterative scoring system that compares the provider information of a particular provider and the order information of a particular order within each respective informational pair, that determines a score reflecting a degree of matching for each respective informational pair, and that receives additional information including user information for iterative rescoring with or without requesting said additional information.

Claim 30 (Previously presented): The system of claim 29, wherein the score is computed from a predetermined formula which includes at least one of user-specified criteria, user-specified weighting factors, and user-specified relative importance of respective criteria.

Claim 31 (Previously presented): The system of claim 29, wherein the iterative scoring system determines scores based in part on degree of clustering of keywords in information provided.

Claim 32 (Currently amended): The system of claim 31, wherein the degree of clustering of keywords in information provided is at least one of (a) information provided by at least one of the user requester, the at least one provider or [[, and]] a third party and (b) information contained in at least one of an application, a biography, and a resume submitted by the at least one provider.

Claim 33 (Previously presented): The system of claim 29, wherein the iterative scoring system considers the degree of matching through multiple steps including receiving and inputting user information and optionally requesting the user information.

Claim 34 (Previously presented): The system of claim 33, wherein the system further comprises (a) a management system that tracks each virtual provider through the multiple steps and (b) a sequencing system that specifies contents of each step of the multiple steps.

Claim 35 (Previously presented): The system of claim 33, further comprising a timer that allocates a pre-determined time to complete at least one of the multiple steps.

Claim 36 (Previously presented): The system of claim 35, wherein the system sends an alarm indicating that a predetermined time period has lapsed without requisite action.

Claim 37 (Currently amended): The system of claim 36, wherein the alarm is sent to at least one individual recipient selected from the group consisting of user ~~the requester~~, the provider, a third party, and an operator of the system, the alarm is classified as either a warning alarm or an urgent alarm, and the alarm is sent to the at least one individual recipient based on whether the respective at least one individual recipient has access to warning alarms or to urgent alarms.

Claim 38 (Currently amended): The system of claim 33, wherein the contents of each step of the multiple steps at least includes instructions to at least one of (a) the user requester regarding the input of additional user requester information and (b) the provider regarding the input of additional provider information, and wherein the sequencing system provides default content of a step.

Claim 39 (Currently amended): The system of claim 38, wherein the default content is modified by the user requester.

Claim 40 (Previously presented): The system of claim 29, further comprising a rescoring system that automatically corrects the scores based on correction factors.

Claim 41 (Previously presented): The system of claim 40, wherein the correction factors are derived from at least one of interviewing the provider, objective testing of the provider, and reference checking of the provider's information.

Claim 42 (Previously presented): The system of claim 40, further comprising a device to request information which is one of (a) an avatar which is an animated image generated automatically by the system or (b) a simulated interviewer.

Claim 43 (Previously presented): The system of claim 42, further comprising a device to accept verbal input, and wherein information is provided as verbal input and the system converts the verbal input to digital form.

Claim 44 (Previously presented): The system of claim 29, further comprising a device to request information which is one of (a) an avatar which is an animated image generated automatically by the system or (b) a simulated interviewer.

Claim 45 (Previously presented): The system of claim 29, further comprising a device to accept verbal input, and wherein information is provided as verbal input and the system converts the verbal input to digital form.

Claim 46 (Currently amended): The system of claim 29, further comprising a reporting system that at least one of (a) sends status messages to the user requester regarding the status of a particular order in the system, and (b) sends status messages to providers regarding the status of the virtual providers relating to respective providers in the system.

Claim 47 (Currently amended): The system of claim 29, further comprising a billing system that bills the user requester based on at least one of (a) number of providers that have been matched with said user requester, (b) number of orders during a period of time from said user requester, and (c) the number of iterations.

Claim 48 (Cancelled).

Claim 49 (Currently amended): The system of claim 29 48, wherein the requests for information result in the system obtaining at least one of the user purchaser information, the provider information, the order information, and refinements of the foregoing.

Claim 50 (Currently amended): The system of claim 29 48, wherein the knowledge base contains at least two different categories of information including (a) basic information used by the system to construct initial questionnaires used to obtain input of initial

user requester, order, and provider information; and (b) correction information used by the system to construct verification materials used for corrections when the system determines that verification of user-provided information is appropriate.

Claim 51 (Currently amended): The system of claim 50, wherein the correction information includes rules by which verification materials including at least questions are selected for verification and correction of previously entered provider, order, and user requester information.

Claim 52 (Previously presented): The system of claim 51, wherein the verification materials are constructed in a real time manner by the system question by question when the system determines that verification of user-provided information is appropriate.

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Claim 53 (Previously presented): The system of claim 52, wherein the verification materials include multiple-choice questions and a plurality of answers to each respective question.

Claim 54 (Currently amended): The system of claim 29 48, wherein the requests for information comprise at least one of questionnaires, application forms, tests, interview scripts and other verification requests.

Claim 55 (Currently amended): The system of claim 29 48, wherein the requests for information are organized in a plurality of levels so that the response to one or more requests for information in one level generates one or more requests for information in another level.

Claim 56 (Previously presented): The system of claim 55, wherein the requests for information are organized into at least three levels.

Claim 57 (Currently amended): The system of claim 29 48, wherein the system makes at least one request for information from at least one responder, receives at least one response from a respective responder responders, and determines which particular request for information was satisfied without the respective responder responders identifying themselves.

Claim 58 (Currently amended): The system of claim 57, wherein the system includes a plurality of hidden codes to identify the respective responder responders.

Claim 59 (Currently amended): The system of claim 29 48, further comprising a knowledge base system that updates the information contained in the knowledge base automatically so that the knowledge base is an adaptive knowledge base.

Claim 60 (Previously presented): The system of claim 59, further comprising a reporting system that at least one of (a) sends status messages to the user requester regarding the status of a particular order in the system, and (b) sends status messages to providers regarding the status of the virtual providers relating to respective providers in the system, wherein the reporting system advises at least one of users requesters and providers when the knowledge base is automatically updated, and wherein at least one of users requesters and providers input additional information into the system in response to the advisories.

Claim 61 (Currently amended): The system of claim 29, wherein the user requester is a prospective employer and the provider is one of a prospective employee or independent contractor.

Claim 62 (Currently amended): The system of claim 29, wherein the user requester is a prospective patient and the provider is one of a prospective doctor or dentist.

Claim 63 (Currently amended): The system of claim 29, wherein the user requester is a human shopper and the provider is a supplier of one of companionship, goods, or services.

Claim 64 (Previously presented): The system of claim 29, wherein the degree of matching between each order-provider pairing is computed without elimination of any providers to obtain a best fit.

Claim 65 (Currently amended): A system wherein a user requester places an order for at least one provider, and a degree of matching between each order-provider pairing is computed, the system comprising:

a data storage device to receive and store user information from at least one user, the user information including ~~requester information that specifies requester criteria~~, provider information that specifies provider criteria[[,]] and order information that specifies order criteria ~~provided by the requester for that particular order from at least one user~~;

at least one virtual provider that is created by pairing provider information of a particular provider with order information of a particular order to create an informational pair;

a knowledge base which is stored in a data storage device which may be said data storage device, which is separate from the user information and separate from program code, and which contains information on which to base requests for information by the system to obtain the user information;

a scoring system that compares the provider information of a particular provider and the order information of a particular order within each respective informational pair, and that determines a score reflecting a degree of matching for each respective informational pair;

a management system that tracks each virtual provider of the at least one ~~on~~ virtual provider through a plurality of information gathering steps; and

a sequencing system that specifies contents of each step of the plurality of information gathering steps, the contents at least including instructions to at least one of (a) the user requester regarding the input of user requester information and (b) the provider regarding the input of provider information.

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Claim 66 (Previously presented): The system of claim 65, wherein the sequencing system provides default content of an information gathering step.

Claim 67 (Currently amended): The system of claim 66, wherein the default content is modified by the user requester.

Claim 68 (Previously presented): The system of claim 65, wherein the score is computed from a predetermined formula which includes at least one of user-specified criteria, user-specified weighting factors, and user-specified relative importance of respective criteria.

Claim 69 (Previously presented): The system of claim 65, wherein the scoring system determines scores based in part on degree of clustering of keywords in information provided.

Claim 70 (Currently amended): The system of claim 69, wherein the degree of clustering of keywords in information provided is at least one of (a) information provided by at least one of the user requester, the at least one provider, and a third party and (b) information contained in at least one of an application, a biography, and a resume submitted by the at least one provider.

Claim 71 (Previously presented): The system of claim 65, wherein the scoring system considers the degree of matching through multiple steps including receiving and inputting user information and optionally requesting the user information.

Claim 72 (Previously presented): The system of claim 71, further comprising a timer that allocates a pre-determined time to complete at least one of the information gathering steps.

Claim 73 (Previously presented): The system of claim 71, wherein the system sends an alarm indicating that a predetermined time period has lapsed without requisite action.

Claim 74 (Currently amended): The system of claim 73, wherein the alarm is sent to at least one individual recipient selected from the group consisting of the user requester, the provider, a third party, and an operator of the system, the alarm is classified as either a warning alarm or an urgent alarm, and the alarm is sent to the at least one individual recipient based on whether the respective at least one individual recipient has access to warning alarms or to urgent alarms.

Claim 75 (Previously presented): The system of claim 65, further comprising a rescoring system that automatically corrects the scores based on correction factors.

Claim 76 (Previously presented): The system of claim 75, wherein the correction factors are derived from at least one of interviewing the provider, objective testing of the provider, and reference checking of the provider's information.

Claim 77 (Previously presented): The system of claim 75, further comprising a device to request information which is one of (a) an avatar which is an animated image generated automatically by the system or (b) a simulated interviewer.

Claim 78 (Previously presented): The system of claim 77, further comprising a device to accept verbal input, and wherein information is provided as verbal input and the system converts the verbal input to digital form.

Claim 79 (Previously presented): The system of claim 65, further comprising a device to request information which is one of (a) an avatar which is an animated image generated automatically by the system or (b) a simulated interviewer.

Claim 80 (Previously presented): The system of claim 79, further comprising a device to accept verbal input, and wherein information is provided as verbal input and the system converts the verbal input to digital form.

Claim 81 (Currently amended): The system of claim 65, further comprising a reporting system that at least (a) sends status messages to the user requester regarding the status of a particular order in the system, and (b) sends status messages to providers regarding the status of the virtual providers relating to respective providers in the system.

Claim 82 (Currently amended): The system of claim 65, further comprising a billing system that bills the user requester based on at least one of (a) number of providers that have

been matched with said user requester, (b) number of orders during a period of time from said user requester, and (c) the number of iterations.

Claim 83 (Cancelled).

Claim 84 (Currently amended): The system of claim 65 83, wherein the requests for information result in the system obtaining at least one of the user purchaser information, the provider information, the order information, and refinements of the foregoing.

Claim 85 (Currently amended): The system of claim 65 83, wherein the knowledge base contains at least two different categories of information including (a) basic information used by the system to construct initial questionnaires used to obtain input of initial user requester, order, and provider information; and (b) correction information used by the system to construct verification materials used for corrections when the system determines that verification of user-provided information is appropriate.

Claim 86 (Currently amended): The system of claim 85, wherein the correction information includes rules by which verification materials including at least questions are selected for verification and correction of previously entered provider, order, and user requester information.

Claim 87 (Previously presented): The system of claim 86, wherein the verification materials are constructed in a real time manner by the system question by question when the system determines that verification of user-provided information is appropriate.

Claim 88 (Previously presented): The system of claim 87, wherein the verification materials include multiple-choice questions and a plurality of answers to each respective question.

Claim 89 (Currently amended): The system of claim 65 83, wherein the requests for information comprise at least one of questionnaires, application forms, interview scripts and other verification requests request.

Claim 90 (Currently amended): The system of claim 65 83, wherein the requests for information are organized in a plurality of levels so that the response to one or more requests for information in one level generates one or more requests for information in another level.

Claim 91 (Previously presented): The system of claim 90, wherein the requests for information are organized into at least three levels.

Claim 92 (Currently amended): The system of claim 65 ~~83~~, wherein the system makes at least one request for information from at least one responder, receives at least one response from respective responder, and determines which particular request for information was satisfied without the respective responder identifying themselves.

Claim 93 (Previously presented): The system of claim 92, wherein the system includes a plurality of hidden codes to identify respective responder.

Claim 94 (Currently amended): The system of claim 65 ~~83~~, further comprising a knowledge base system that updates the information contained in the knowledge base automatically so that the knowledge base is an adaptive knowledge base.

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Claim 95 (Currently amended): The system of claim 94, further comprising a reporting system that at least (a) sends status messages to the user requester regarding the status of a particular order in the system, and (b) sends status messages to providers regarding the status of the virtual providers relating to respective providers in the system, wherein the reporting system advises at least one of users requester and providers when the knowledge base is automatically updated, and wherein at least one of users requester or providers input additional information into the system in response to the advisories.

Claim 96 (Currently amended): The system of claim 65, wherein the user requester is a prospective employer and the provider is one of a prospective employee or independent contractor.

Claim 97 (Currently amended): The system of claim 65, wherein the user requester is a prospective patient and the provider is one of a prospective doctor or dentist.

Claim 98 (Currently amended): The system of claim 65, wherein the user requester is a human shopper and the provider is a supplier of one of companionship, goods, or services.

Claim 99 (Previously presented): The system of claim 65, wherein the degree of matching between each order-provider pairing is computed without elimination of any providers to obtain a best fit.

Claim 100 (Currently amended): A system wherein a user requester places an order for at least one provider and a degree of matching between each order-provider pairing is computed, the system comprising:

database w/ provider criteria and order/requester criteria
a data storage device to receive and store user information including requester information that specifies requester criteria, provider information that specifies provider criteria^{user}[[,]] and order information that specifies order ^{by requester} the requester's criteria for that particular order;

makes a match
at least one virtual provider that is created by matching provider information of a particular provider with order information of a particular order; and

database questionnaire
a knowledge base which is stored in a data storage device which may be said data storage device, which is separate from the user information and separate from program code, and which contains information on which to base requests for information by the system to obtain the user information. ^{i.e., questionnaire} *12 A.B.*

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Claim 101 (Previously presented): The system of claim 100, wherein the data storage device for the knowledge base is separate from the data storage device which receives and stores user information.

Claim 102 (Currently amended): The system of claim 100, wherein the requests for information result in the system obtaining at least one of the user purchaser information, the provider information, the order information, and refinements of the foregoing.

Claim 103 (Currently amended): The system of claim 100, wherein the knowledge base ~~knowledge base~~ contains at least two different categories of information including (a) basic information used by the system to construct initial questionnaires used to obtain input of initial user requester, order, and provider information; and (b) correction information used by the system to construct verification materials used for corrections when the system determines that verification of user-provided information is appropriate.

Claim 104 (Currently amended): The system of claim 103, wherein the correction information includes rules by which verification materials including at least questions are selected for verification and correction of previously entered provider, order, and user requester information.

Claim 105 (Previously presented): The system of claim 104, wherein the verification materials are constructed in a real time manner by the system question by question when the system determines that verification of user-provided information is appropriate.

Claim 106 (Previously presented): The system of claim 105, wherein the verification materials include multiple-choice questions and a plurality of answers to each respective question.

Claim 107 (Previously presented): The system of claim 100, wherein the requests for information comprise at least one of questionnaires, application forms, interview scripts and other verification request.

Claim 108 (Previously presented): The system of claim 100, wherein the requests for information are organized in a plurality of levels so that the response to one or more requests for information in one level generates one or more requests for information in another level.

Claim 109 (Previously presented): The system of claim 108, wherein the requests for information are organized into at least three levels.

Claim 110 (Currently amended): The system of claim 100, wherein the system makes at least one request for information from at least one responder, receives at least one response from a respective responder, and determines which particular request for information was satisfied without the respective responder identifying themselves.

Claim 111 (Currently amended): The system of claim 110, wherein the system includes a plurality of hidden codes to identify the respective responder.

Claim 112 (Previously presented): The system of claim 100, further comprising a knowledge base system that updates the information contained in the knowledge base automatically so that the knowledge base is an adaptive knowledge base.

Claim 113 (Previously presented): The system of claim 112, wherein the knowledge base is automatically updated to provide updates with or without an acceptance decision by a human monitor, and wherein the updates may be used as a basis for obtaining additional user information.

Claim 114 (Currently amended): The system of claim 100, further comprising a reporting system that at least one of (a) sends status messages to the user requester regarding the status of a particular order in the system, and (b) sends status messages to providers regarding the status of the virtual providers relating to respective providers in the system, wherein the reporting system advises at least one of users requesters and providers when the knowledge base

is automatically updated, and wherein at least one of users ~~requesters~~ and providers input additional information into the system in response to the advisories.

Claim 115 (Previously presented): The system of claim 100, further comprising a scoring system for each of the at least one virtual provider that compares the provider information of a particular provider and the order information of a particular order, and that determines a score for each respective informational pair for each said at least one virtual provider reflecting the degree of matching between the criteria of the provider information of a particular provider and the order information of a particular order.

Claim 116 (Previously presented): The system of claim 115, wherein the score is computed from a predetermined formula which includes at least one of user-specified criteria, user-specified weighting factors, and user-specified relative importance of respective criteria.

Claim 117 (Previously presented): The system of claim 115, wherein the scoring system determines scores based in part on degree of clustering of keywords in information provided.

Claim 118 (Currently amended): The system of claim 117, wherein the degree of clustering of keywords in information provided is at least one of (a) information provided by at least one of the user ~~requester~~, the at least one provider, and a third party and (b) information contained in at least one of an application, a biography, and a resume submitted by the at least one provider.

Claim 119 (Previously presented): The system of claim 115, wherein the scoring system considers the degree of matching through multiple steps including receiving and inputting user information and optionally requesting the user information.

Claim 120 (Previously presented): The system of claim 115, further comprising a rescoring system that automatically corrects the scores based on correction factors.

Claim 121 (Previously presented): The system of claim 120, wherein the correction factors are derived from at least one of interviewing the provider, objective testing of the provider, and reference checking of the provider's information.

Claim 122 (Previously presented): The system of claim 100, wherein the system further comprises (a) a management system that tracks each virtual provider through the multiple steps and (b) a sequencing system that specifies contents of each step of the multiple steps.

Claim 123 (Previously presented): The system of claim 122, further comprising a timer that allocates a pre-determined time to complete at least one of the multiple steps.

Claim 124 (Previously presented): The system of claim 123, wherein the system sends an alarm indicating that a predetermined time period has lapsed without requisite action.

Claim 125 (Currently amended): The system of claim 124, wherein the alarm is sent to at least one individual recipient selected from the group consisting of the user requester, the provider, a third party, and an operator of the system, the alarm is classified as either a warning alarm or an urgent alarm, and the alarm is sent to the at least one individual recipient based on whether the respective at least one individual recipient has access to warning alarms or to urgent alarms.

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Claim 126 (Currently amended): The system of claim 122, wherein the contents of each step of the multiple steps at least includes instructions to at least one of (a) the user requester regarding the input of additional user requester information and (b) the provider regarding the input of additional provider information, and wherein the sequencing system provides default content of a step.

Claim 127 (Currently amended): The system of claim 126, wherein the default content is modified by the user requester.

Claim 128 (Previously presented): The system of claim 122, further comprising a device to request information which is one of (a) an avatar which is an animated image generated automatically by the system or (b) a simulated interviewer.

Claim 129 (Previously presented): The system of claim 122, further comprising a device to accept verbal input, and wherein information is provided as verbal input and the system converts the verbal input to digital form.

Claim 130 (Previously presented): The system of claim 100, further comprising a device to request information which is one of (a) an avatar which is an animated image generated automatically by the system or (b) a simulated interviewer.

Claim 131 (Previously presented): The system of claim 100, further comprising a device to accept verbal input, and wherein information is provided as verbal input and the system converts the verbal input to digital form.

Claim 132 (Currently amended): The system of claim 100, further comprising a reporting system that at least one of (a) sends status messages to the user requester regarding the status of a particular order in the system, and (b) sends status messages to providers regarding the status of the virtual providers relating to respective providers in the system.

Claim 133 (Currently amended): The system of claim 100, further comprising a billing system that bills the user requester based on at least one of (a) number of providers that have been matched with said user requester, (b) number of orders during a period of time from said user requester, and (c) the number of iterations.

Claim 134 (Currently amended): The system of claim 100, wherein the user requester is a prospective employer and the provider is one of a prospective employee or independent contractor.

Claim 135 (Currently amended): The system of claim 100, wherein the user requester is a prospective patient and the provider is one of a prospective doctor or dentist.

Claim 136 (Currently amended): The system of claim 100, wherein the user requester is a human shopper and the provider is a supplier of one of companionship, goods, or services.

Claim 137 (Previously presented): The system of claim 100, wherein the degree of matching between each order-provider pairing is computed without elimination of any providers to obtain a best fit.

Claim 138 (Previously presented): The system of claim 100, further comprising a correction system that automatically corrects the scores provided by the scoring system based on correction factors.

Claim 139 (Previously presented): The system of claim 138, wherein the correction factors are derived from at least one of interviewing the provider, objective testing of the provider, and reference checking regarding the provider's information.

Claim 140 (Currently amended): A system wherein a user requester places an order for at least one provider and a degree of matching between each order-provider pairing is computed, the system comprising:

a data storage device to receive and store user information including requester information that specifies requester criteria, provider information that specifies provider

criteria[[,]] and order information ~~that~~ ~~which~~ specifies the order requester's criteria for that particular order;

at least one virtual provider that is created by matching provider information of a particular provider with order information of a particular order to create an informational pair;

a knowledge base which is stored in a data storage device which may be said data storage device, which is separate from the user information and separate from program code, and which contains information on which to base requests for information by the system to obtain the user information;

a scoring system for each said at least one virtual provider that compares the provider information of a particular provider and the order information of a particular order within each respective informational pair, and that determines a score reflecting a degree of matching for each respective informational pair; and

a correction system that automatically corrects the scores provided by the scoring system based on correction factors.

Claim 141 (Previously presented): The system of claim 140, wherein the correction factors are derived from at least one of interviewing the provider, objective testing of the provider, and reference checking of the provider's information.

Claim 142 (Previously presented): The system of claim 140, wherein the score is computed from a predetermined formula which includes at least one of user-specified criteria, user-specified weighting factors, and user-specified relative importance of respective criteria.

Claim 143 (Previously presented): The system of claim 140, wherein the scoring system determines scores based in part on degree of clustering of keywords in information provided.

Claim 144 (Currently amended): The system of claim 143, wherein the degree of clustering of keywords in information provided is at least one of (a) information provided by at least one of the user requester, the at least one provider, and a third party and (b) information contained in at least one of an application, a biography, and a resume submitted by the at least one provider.

Claim 145 (Previously presented): The system of claim 140, wherein the scoring system considers the degree of matching through multiple steps including receiving and inputting user information and optionally requesting the user information.

Claim 146 (Previously presented): The system of claim 140, further comprising a rescoring system that automatically corrects the scores based on correction factors.

Claim 147 (Currently amended): The system of claim 140, further comprising a management system that tracks the at least one virtual provider through the multiple steps; and a sequencing system that specifies contents of each step, the contents at least including automatically-generated requests which are delivered to at least one of the user requester regarding the input of additional user requester information and to the provider regarding the input of additional provider information.

Claim 148 (Previously presented): The system of claim 147, further comprising a timer that allocates a pre-determined time to complete at least one of the multiple steps.

Claim 149 (Previously presented): The system of claim 147, wherein the system sends an alarm indicating that a predetermined time period has lapsed without requisite action.

Claim 150 (Currently amended): The system of claim 149, wherein the alarm is sent to at least one individual recipient selected from the group consisting of the user requester, the provider, a third party, and an operator of the system, the alarm is classified as either a warning alarm or an urgent alarm, and the alarm is sent to the at least one individual recipient based on whether the respective at least one individual recipient has access to warning alarms or to urgent alarms.

Claim 151 (Currently amended): The system of claim 147, wherein the contents of each step of the multiple steps at least includes instructions to at least one of (a) the user requester regarding the input of additional requester information and (b) the provider regarding the input of additional provider information, and wherein the sequencing system provides default content of a step.

Claim 152 (Currently amended): The system of claim 151, wherein the default content is modified by the user requester.

Claim 153 (Previously presented): The system of claim 151, further comprising a device to request information which is one of (a) an avatar which is an animated image generated automatically by the system or (b) a simulated interviewer.

Claim 154 (Previously presented): The system of claim 153, further comprising a device to accept verbal input, and wherein information is provided as verbal input and the system converts the verbal input to digital form.

Claim 155 (Previously presented): The system of claim 140, further comprising a device to request information which is one of (a) an avatar which is an animated image generated automatically by the system or (b) a simulated interviewer.

Claim 156 (Previously presented): The system of claim 140, further comprising a device to accept verbal input, and wherein information is provided as verbal input and the system converts the verbal input to digital form.

Claim 157 (Currently amended): The system of claim 140, further comprising a reporting system that at least one of (a) sends status messages to the user requester regarding the status of a particular order in the system, and (b) sends status messages to providers regarding the status of the virtual providers relating to respective providers in the system.

Claim 158 (Currently amended): The system of claim 140, further comprising a billing system that bills the user requester based on at least one of (a) number of providers that have been matched with said user requester, (b) number of orders during a period of time from said user requester, and (c) the number of iterations.

Claim 159 (Cancelled).

Claim 160 (Currently amended): The system of claim 140 159, wherein the requests for information result in the system obtaining at least one of the user purchaser information, the provider information, the order information, and refinements of the foregoing.

Claim 161 (Currently amended): The system of claim 140 159, wherein the knowledge base ~~knowledgebase~~ contains at least two different categories of information including (a) basic information used by the system to construct initial questionnaires used to obtain input of initial user requester, order, and provider information; and (b) correction information used by the system to construct verification materials used for corrections when the system determines that verification of user-provided information is appropriate.


Claim 162 (Currently amended): The system of claim 161, wherein the correction information includes rules by which verification materials including at least questions are

selected for verification and correction of previously entered provider, order, and user requester information.

Claim 163 (Previously presented): The system of claim 162, wherein the verification materials are constructed in a real time manner by the system question by question when the system determines that verification of user-provided information is appropriate.

Claim 164 (Previously presented): The system of claim 163, wherein the verification materials include multiple-choice questions and a plurality of answers to each respective question.

Claim 165 (Currently amended): The system of claim 140 ~~159~~, wherein the requests for information comprise at least one of questionnaires, application forms, interview scripts and other verification requests ~~request~~.

 Claim 166 (Currently amended): The system of claim 140 ~~159~~, wherein the requests for information are organized in a plurality of levels so that the response to one or more requests for information in one level generates one or more requests for information in another level.

Claim 167 (Previously presented): The system of claim 166, wherein the requests for information are organized into at least three levels.

Claim 168 (Currently amended): The system of claim 140 ~~159~~, wherein the system makes at least one request for information from at least one responder, receives at least one response from a respective responder, and determines which particular request for information was satisfied without the respective responder identifying themselves.

Claim 169 (Currently amended): The system of claim 168, wherein the system includes a plurality of hidden codes to identify the respective responder.

Claim 170 (Currently amended): The system of claim 140 ~~159~~, further comprising a knowledge base system that updates the information contained in the knowledge base automatically so that the knowledge base is an adaptive knowledge base.

Claim 171 (Currently amended): The system of claim 170, further comprising a reporting system that at least one of (a) sends status messages to the user requester regarding the status of a particular order in the system, and (b) sends status messages to providers regarding the status of the virtual providers relating to respective providers in the system, wherein the reporting system advises at least one of users ~~requesters~~ and providers when the knowledge base

is automatically updated, and wherein at least one of users ~~requesters~~ and providers input additional information into the system in response to the advisories.

Claim 172 (Currently amended): The system of claim 140, wherein the user ~~requester~~ is a prospective employer and the provider is one of a prospective employee or independent contractor.

Claim 173 (Currently amended): The system of claim 140, wherein the user ~~requester~~ is a prospective patient and the provider is one of a prospective doctor or dentist.

Claim 174 (Currently amended): The system of claim 140, wherein the user ~~requester~~ is a human shopper and the provider is a supplier of one of companionship, goods, or services.

Claim 175 (Previously presented): The system of claim 140, wherein the degree of matching between each order-provider pairing is computed without elimination of any providers to obtain a best fit.
